



The Story Club

by Edmund Vance Cooke



THE MAGIC MIRROR

"Polly Pomfret was th best little girl ever, I guess. Anyway, her father thought so, her mother thought so, her sisters thought so, her brother thought so, her teachers thought so and I 'most think she thought so. 'Twasn't strange if she did, 'cause 'most everybody told her so.

"She was 'so conscientious.' That's what they all said. She got up and dressed in the morning as soon as the big clock struck half past six, she washed her ears and even her teeth without being told, she was never tardy at school unless she broke a leg and she did everything the grown-ups told her was right. Yep, she even went to bed at eight o'clock and didn't have to be spoken to twice.

"She was so good she almost made you mad to think about her, though of course nobody could help liking her. Gee! she was good!

"She did have one fault, though nobody noticed it very much, and she herself thought it rather smart and maybe she would never have found out what it was if it hadn't been for the magic mirror.

"I don't see why some people say there's no such thing as a magic mirror when almost everybody has seen 'em. In the first place, any old common looking-glass is SOME magical. Suppose it WASN'T so common. Suppose

you had never seen a looking-glass. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to see something that looked exactly like you and exactly like everything else and that knew everything you were going to do, so that it could mock everything you did just the second that you did it? And then there are those laughing mirrors that you see in shows and that show you just how you'd look if you were terribly tall and thin, or awfully short and fat and some of them make you look like a cartoon with a wee little head, a great big body and hardly any legs and feet, and all sorts of ways. Well, isn't that ALMOST magical? Would you believe it if you hadn't seen it?

"Now, that's just the way the real magic mirror is made, only more so. Instead of showing how you'd look if you were thin, or fat, it shows you how you'd look if you were old, how you'll look maybe 50 years or so.

"Well, one day we all went to the Mystic Maze and we looked in the magic mirrors and after we had giggled at the thin one and laughed at the fat one and howled at the cartoon ones, we all peeked into the OLD one."

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The rest of the Magic Mirror story will be told tomorrow.

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The time to spit on your hands is before you take hold of a